



# **ITI 2000**

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**INDIAN TELECOM TRAINING INITIATIVE 2000**



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## Overview

- Outline federal regulatory functions
- Identify government and industry organizations
- Describe their roles
- Identify how to reach them



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## **Federal Communications Commission**

- Federal government agency which makes rules pursuant to Congressional policies and mandates
- Communications Act of 1934
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Regulates interstate communications via wire, wireless and satellite
- Regulates interstate rates that local telephone companies file in tariffs
- Oversees federal universal service programs



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## Other Federal Agencies

- Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture Agency
  - Low cost loans to small telcos; Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
  - U.S. Department of Commerce Agency
  - Domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues
  - Spectrum allocation management



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## Other Federal Agencies (cont'd.)

- Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
  - Administers federal universal service programs
  - High-Cost fund helps defray relatively high costs of the local loop for some telcos
  - Other programs help low income subscribers get connected to and stay on the network
  - Schools and libraries and Rural health care providers get Internet connections and other telecom services at discounted rates



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## Other Industry Organizations

- National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. (NECA)
  - Files interstate tariffs on behalf of local telcos and administers revenue pools
- National associations
  - Represent varying telco interests before Congress and the FCC, pressing for favorable outcomes for their constituencies



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## Other Industry Organizations (cont'd.)

- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS)
  - Standards setting
  - Makes existing and emerging telecommunications products and services systems compatible
- Telcordia (formerly Bellcore)
  - Technology solutions
  - Training



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## NECA's Role

- File tariffs with the FCC for rates and services for 1200 mostly small telcos
- Administer revenue pools, reimbursing telcos the cost of providing access to the interstate network
- Provide extensive training, annual Expos, workshops
- Support informed policy making through analysis of industry data

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## Research Papers

- NECA
  - Broadband cost study
  - Access Market Survey
- National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) white papers
  - Dial-Tone is Not Enough: Serving Tribal Lands
  - Members Serving Tribal Areas Survey Report
  - Building the Last Mile: Broadband Deployment in Rural America



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## Research Papers (cont'd.)

- NTIA “Falling Through the Net” series:
  - A Survey of the “Have Nots” in Rural and Urban America (1995)
  - New data on the Digital Divide (1998)
  - Defining the Digital Divide (1999)
- FCC
  - Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability: Second Report (8/00)



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## **How to become a NECA member**

- Membership governed by FCC rules
- Must be an incumbent local telephone company (ILEC)
- New telcos formed by buying lines or exchanges from existing territories or serving previously unserved areas.



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## Federal Universal Service

- Company must have Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status
- Must qualify, based on FCC rules and company's cost to provide service, relative to a national benchmark
- Companies supply data to NECA annually for qualification/calculation



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## **Telco responsibilities**

- Make annual decisions on participation in NECA tariffs/pools
- Provide NECA with data for monthly settlements
- Recurring and non-recurring data requests, to NECA and FCC



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## How to reach them

- NECA - 800-228-8398
- FCC - 888-CALL FCC (888-225-5322)
- NTIA - 202-482-7002
- RUS - 800-633-7701(Rural Info Center hotline)
- NTCA - 703-351-2000
- OPASTCO - 202-659-5990
- USTA - 202-326-7300

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